

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include the requested headings and to identify a basket 100 and a spray nozzle system 110 in the Figure. A Replacement Sheet illustrates the basket and spray nozzle system.

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Hakansson, WO92/16314 (hereinafter "the '314 patent") in combination with various other references. The Examiner admits that the '314 patent does not teach, *inter alia*, a support member in the form of a basket, a heat exchanger and its location on the discharge line and the valve being located between the heat exchanger and the bioreactor, as claimed in applicant's claim 1. For these elements of the invention, the Examiner cites USP 6,288,180 (the '180 patent) for the basket, and USP 6,383,371 (the '371 patent) for a heat exchanger. However, the cited secondary references do not relate to a closed system, as claimed by applicant, and the Examiner fails to explain why the substitution of components from an open system would function in the same manner in a closed system.

Particularly with respect to the use of a heat exchanger, the '371 patent teaches an entirely non-analogous process, wherein the heat exchanger is used in a sludge recycle stream, i.e., a product stream, which is eventually discharged. The '371 patent thus does not use heat exchange for cooling purifying liquid in a closed system, as claimed by applicant, and one skilled in the art of washing would not turn to waste treatment for a teaching of using a heat exchanger in any event.

None of the references, either alone or in combination, teach applicant's closed, dual temperature zone invention in which the washing is carried out at a high temperature and the washing liquid is cooled to a lower temperature prior to being processed in a bioreactor and thereafter recycled.


Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and a Notice of allowance of claims 1-17 is requested.

1217 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 299-0035 telephone
(703) 299-0036 facsimile

Date: July 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

WRB-IP LLP

By: 
David J. Serbin
Registration No. 30,589